

Managing Dementia Across the Continuum

White House Conference on Aging - Independent Event

Post Event Summary

Date of Event: June 3, 2005

Location: Washington Hilton
Washington, DC

Number of Attendees: 170

Sponsoring Organizations: Department of Geriatrics and Extended Care
Washington DC VA Medical Center

Washington DC, Area Geriatric Education Consortium

National Capital Area Chapter, Alzheimer's Association

Metropolitan DC, American Geriatrics Society

Chesapeake Health Educations Programs, Inc

Moderator: Parag Dalsania, MD

WHCoA Agenda Item: Health and Long Term Living

Priority Issue Number One

Issue: Increase in the number of Americans with dementia, without an increase in the number of appropriately trained physicians trained to provide the needed care.

Barriers:

- 1) Limited number of physicians to practice Geriatric Medicine
- 2) Limited training in how to care for persons with dementia

Solutions:

- 1) Develop financial incentives for those practicing in Geriatric Medicine
- 2) Have states provide loan repayment programs to attract Geriatricians
- 3) Develop more collaboration between private and federal programs to provide appropriate education and to improve clinical diagnosis and management skills

Priority Issue Number Two

Issue: Families and persons with dementia have multiple issues which require care coordination

Barriers:

- 1) No uniform system in place to coordinate the care for persons with dementia
- 2) Health care systems not designed to provide care for persons living with multiple and debilitating chronic diseases such as dementia

Solutions:

- 1) Increase funding for research focusing on models of care for persons with dementia
- 2) Have CMS enhance funding and start implementing these models
- 3) Develop an collaborative group between NIH and AHRQ directing their energy to develop measures of good outcomes in persons with dementia
- 4) Develop standards to measure timely utilization and appropriate use of services near end of life in persons with dementia
- 5) Integrate data systems to improve coordination of the care, resources and needs

Priority Issue Number Three

Issue: Caregivers are emotionally and financially drained in providing care for persons with dementia

Barriers:

- 1) No uniform resources center for caregivers
- 2) Limited financial support available for caregivers

Solutions:

- 1) Have “Solutions Centers” where families can go to get educated, resources, support and medical care – essentially blending the social and medical model
 - a. Have these programs funded by a combination of federal, state and local
 - b. They would address the issues such as transportation, meals, and medical emergencies. These centers would identify patients and caregivers needs, determine the resources needed and actually implement the interventions.
- 2) Deregulate the cumbersome process of the Medicaid waiver programs – so caregivers can get appropriate level of care at home
- 3) Shift the framework where the Medicaid and Medicare funding would support home care rather than institutional care.